THE POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION OF VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL
EDUCATION TO THE FUTURE SOCIAL - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF
ALBANIA

by

Pavli K. Mykerezi

Dissertation submitted to the Faculty of the
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Doctor of Philosophy

in

Career and Technical Education

APPROVED

John R. Crunkilton, Co-chair

Curtis R. Finch, Co-chair

James P. Clouse

Konrad K. Eschenmann

William T. Price

Keywords: Social-Economic, Albania, Modified Delphi Technique, Policy

April 2003

Blacksburg, Virginia
The Potential Contribution of Vocational and Technical Education to the Future Social-Economic Development of Albania.

by

Pavli K. Mykerezi

(ABSTRACT)

The purpose of this study was to determine the potential contribution of vocational and technical education to the future social-economic development of Albania. To achieve this purpose, a panel of experts was involved in the formulation of statements and the determination of each statement’s value as a contributor to future social-economic development.

This study was conducted using a Modified Delphi Technique to identify and prioritize statements generated as part of this research methodology. The study was accomplished through solicitation of responses from a 17 member panel of experts. The panel consisted of individuals representing government service, non-government organizations, Albanian educators, and international educators involved in different educational projects in Albania in the last ten years.

Each of the experts was asked to identify statements that vocational and technical education can contribute to the future social-economic development of Albania. Responses provided by the panel members and the statements added by the researcher were edited and organized into a list with 71 statements. The panel of experts was asked to rate this list and means and standard deviations were calculated for each statement. The criterion to determine the importance of statements was defined as a mean being equal or higher than 3.5 on a 5-point Likert scale. The criteria employed to determine
panel consensus was defined as a standard deviation being equal or less than 1.00. From the list of 71 statements, 68 were concluded to have been important and have reached consensus by the panel. The 68 statements on which the panel of experts reached consensus were rank ordered according to their means.

A content analysis of the ranked statements revealed that statements clustered around common themes. These themes included VTE’s Planning Procedures and Policy, Program and Institutional Development, Values and Work Ethics, Productivity, Communication and Analytical Skills, and Linkages.

From these results, it was concluded that the process for the development of an effective VTE program that will contribute to the social-economic development of Albania will be long and complex. This process will involve many people, agencies, and organizations all working together. Hence, it was recommended that the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs take the lead in this process.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The great thing in this world
is not so much where we are, but in what direction
we are moving. –Oliver Wendell Holmes

The path leading to this degree is one of the biggest challenges I have ever tread. No one reaches the end of this path without encouragement and support. I would not have completed it successfully without the people who were with me on the trip.

I am grateful to Dr. Crunkilton, who paved the way for my study at Virginia Tech. In my Master’s portfolio I wrote: “If you are in Crunkilton’s hand, every dream comes true.” Dr. Crunkilton has been my adviser, employer, counselor, and most importantly, my friend. Never a father can support his son more than Dr. Crunkilton supported me. He combines caring, compassion, and personal responsibility to make a truly special professional. Words will never be able to describe my thanks and appreciation. I am proud today to say that my dream came true.

Special thanks are also extended to the other members of my doctoral committee, Dr. Curtis Finch, Dr. Kurt Eschenmann, Dr. William Price, and Dr. James Clouse. I have learned so many things from you. You provided me with excellent examples of what it means to be a professional.

I wish to extend my appreciation to my friends of the Agricultural Technology Program and Office of Academic Programs. They always supported me, and I was grateful to be a member on that wonderful big family.
Special appreciation is extended to all the panel members for willingly providing the data for my dissertation and giving me part of their valuable time. I wish them all success and God’s blessing.

Lastly, I would like to thank my family. My wife Shpresa took my dream as her own and supported me as I pursued it, our sons, Elton and Elvis, for their encouragement and belief. I am proud of them.

Once again, thank you all for helping my dream come true.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ABSTRACT</td>
<td>ii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</td>
<td>iv</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TABLE OF CONTENTS</td>
<td>vi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIST OF TABLES</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Chapter

1. INTRODUCTION ................................................................................. 1

   Communism and Former Communist Countries in Europe and Their Educational Programs ............................................ 3

   Balkan Region, Albania, and Their Educational Programs ............................................................................. 6

   Statement of the Problem ............................................................. 8

   Purpose of Study ........................................................................ 9

   Research Question .................................................................... 9

   Significance of the Study .......................................................... 9

   Limitations of the Study ........................................................... 10

   Assumptions ............................................................................. 10

   Definitions of Terms .................................................................. 11

   Summary .................................................................................. 12

2. ALBANIA: AN OVERVIEW .......................................................... 14

   History and Culture .................................................................... 14

   Demography ................................................................................ 16

   Economic Situation .................................................................... 17

   Infrastructure ............................................................................ 19
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potable Water and Sewage</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telecommunication</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Market</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Safety Net</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Care</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment Service</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty in Albania</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VTE and Social-Economic Development</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manpower and Vocational &amp; Technical Education Reform</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delphi Technique</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Definition and Historical Background</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Basics of the Delphi Technique</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advantages of Delphi Technique</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disadvantages of Delphi Technique</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Modified Delphi Technique</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selected Studies in Education Utilizing the Delphi</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. METHODOLOGY

Identification and Selection of Panel Members

Instruments

Delphi Probe

Round I

Round II

Analysis of Data

Summary

5. FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

Round I

Round II

Research Questions

Question One

Question Two

Summary

6. SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Overview of the Study

The Problem

The Purpose of the Study and Research Questions

Research Procedure

The Research Findings
List of Tables


2. The Potential Contribution of Vocational and Technical Education to the Social-Economic Development in Albania as Viewed by the Expert Panel and Ranked by Mean Importance and Standard Deviation .......................68

3. Statement Reflecting The Potential Contribution of Vocational and Technical Education to the Social-Economic Development of Albania Where Experts Did Not Reach Consensus .................................................78

4. List of Statements Grouped by Themes and Ranked by Mean Importance and Standard Deviation .........................83

5. Themes Ranked by Means ......................................................92